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**CITIZENS ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE**  
of southwestern Ontario

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CEA CONCERNED ABOUT INSUFFICIENT PUBLIC  
PARTICIPATION IN GLWQA RENEGOTIATION PROCESS**

*Windsor, ON* – The Citizens Environment Alliance (CEA) and other leading environmental organizations have expressed concern about the insufficient allowance of public participation in the renegotiation process of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. In conjunction with other environmental organizations, the CEA submitted a letter to the governments over three weeks ago expressing concern that the credibility of any renegotiation would be threatened by the governments’ failure to allow for adequate time for the public to participate. (Letter available at [http://www.citizensenvironmentalliance.org/pdf/Letter%20re%20Consultaton%20Jan%202026\\_10.pdf](http://www.citizensenvironmentalliance.org/pdf/Letter%20re%20Consultaton%20Jan%202026_10.pdf) )

The letter was sent after the governments had outlined the process for renegotiation, which is to be completed by the end of the year. The public was given only one month to comment on governance issues - the first phase of the process. “Purposely limiting public input is a familiar pattern of behaviour by the governments involved in the Agreement. Unfortunately it is this very pattern of behaviour which has weakened the Agreement and will undermine any renegotiation,” stated Derek Coronado, Coordinator of the CEA.

In conjunction with other organizations the CEA also submitted comments on the governance issues earlier this week. In the submission, the organizations argued that without reforming the rules and protocols by which U.S. and Canadian agencies collaborate on Great Lakes issues then environmental progress in the Great Lakes will not be accomplished. “We are facing old and new Great Lakes environmental challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, yet the governance around the challenges seems to be stuck in the 19th century,” stated Coronado. (Submission available at [http://www.citizensenvironmentalliance.org/pdf/engo%20governance%20comments\\_FINAL\\_wSIGS.pdf](http://www.citizensenvironmentalliance.org/pdf/engo%20governance%20comments_FINAL_wSIGS.pdf) )

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